

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4057

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANAA 1514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINR, MASS, YE, YS

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER AYNi ON PDRY BORDER CONCENTRATIONS

REF: SANAA 1477; STATE 152967

1. SUMMARY. PRIMIN AYNi SAID CHAIRMAN HAMDI ANXIOUS FOR USG EVALUATION PDRY INTENTIONS. HE SAID YARG HAD HARD EVIDENCE OF INCREASED INFILTRATION AND ASKED THAT SHIPMENT OF ABU DHABI-FINANCED ARMS BE EXPEDITED. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE ON EVALUATION AND ON LONG-TERM RE-EQUIPPING OF YAR FORCES. QUICK DELIVERY ABU DHABI-FINANCED ARMS DIRECTLY TO HODEIDA. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIMIN AYNi SUMMONED ME EVENING JULY 22. HE SAID COMMAND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN HAMDI MOST ANXIOUS TO KNOW IF THERE ANY RESPONSE FROM USG ON ITS EVALUATION OF POSSIBLE INVASION THREAT FROM PDRY. HE HAD ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM ME THAT YARG HAD NEW, ALTHOUGH UNCONFIRMED AND UNSPECIFIC INFORMATION, ON PDRY INTENTIONS TO ATTACK. YARG IN ADDITION HAD HARD EVIDENCE THAT PDRY WAS STEPPING UP
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INFILTRATION OF TERRORISTS, NUMBER OF WHOM ALREADY

CAPTURED AND INTERROGATED BY YAR AUTHORITIES. AYNİ EXPRESSED FEAR THAT IF YAR ARMY DISPERSED TO CONTROL TERRORISTS, YAR WOULD BE EXPOSED TO ARMED ATTACK. YARG CONSIDERED VULNERABLE BAB AL-MANDAB A HIGHLY STRATEGIC AREA IN VIEW RUSSIAN INTEREST IN RED SEA WITH SUEZ CANAL BEING CLEARED AND ASSUMED THAT USG SHARED ITS DESIRE TO PREVENT SOVIETS, THROUGH ADEN, FROM SEIZING CONTROL.

3. I RESPONDED TO AYNİ THAT, FOLLOWING MEETING WITH HAMDI JULY 14, I HAD SENT URGENT MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON REQUESTING FULL EVALUATION OF SITUATION ALONG BORDER. ALTHOUGH THAT EVALUATION NOT YET RECEIVED, I SAID, DRAWING ON PARA ONE DEPTTEL, THAT PRELIMINARY EVALUATION DOES NOT REVEAL ANY EVIDENCE OF IMMINENT ACTION ON PDRY'S PART. IN MEANTIME, I WANTED TO REPEAT QUESTION DIPLOMATIC MEANS TO ENLIST OTHER ARAB STATES, SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT, AND SYRIA, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH ARAB LEAGUE, TO DETER PDRY FROM ANY POSSIBLE AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS. PREVENTION SEEMED BEST MEANS OF DEFENSE. HAMDI HIMSELF HAD STRESSED

YAR'S MILITARY WEAKNESS WHICH DID NOT SEEM TO ME TO BE MATTER CORRECTIBLE IN A MATTER OF WEEKS, ALTHOUGH EMERGENCY AMMUNITION SHIPMENT FROM JORDAN CERTAINLY HELPFUL.

4. AYNİ AGREED ON USEFULNESS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY WHICH HE SAID ALREADY UNDERWAY. YARG WOULD, HOWEVER, SPECIFICALLY LIKE TWO THINGS FROM USG. ONE IS USG'S EVALUATION OF SITUATION SINCE IT POSSESSES FAR GREATER EVALUATION CAPABILITIES THAN DOES YARG. SECOND WAS POSSIBILITY OF USG EMERGENCY ARMS AID.

5. I RESPONDED THAT YARG'S MILITARY PROBLEM WAS BOTH LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM. ON LONG-TERM ASPECT WE HAD BEEN WORKING WITH SAG ON QUESTION RE-EQUIPPING YAR ARMED FORCES. RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON WAS EXPECTED SOON ON WHAT USG ROLE WOULD BE IN THAT EFFORT. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I FELT SURE RESPONSE WOULD BE POSITIVE. ON SHORT-TERM

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ASPECT, USG WAS NOW PREPARING TO SHIP DOLS. TWO AND A HALF MILLION WORTH OF ARMS FINANCED BY ABU DHABI, TO INCLUDE 106 RECOILLESS RIFLES, MORTARS, AND MACHINE GUNS. SHIPMENT DUE TO LEAVE US IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS. I WOULD ASK THAT THIS SHIPMENT BE EXPEDITED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. PRIMIN ASKED THAT HIS WISH FOR THIS BE CONVEYED TO USG.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. MEETING WITH PRIMIN, ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT PROVIDE ANY MORE EVIDENCE ON PUTATIVE PDRY INVASION PLANS, IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE HAMDI AND YARG ATTACH TO QUICK USG RESPONSE EVALUATING SITUATION AND TO SOME CONCRETE STEP TO DEMONSTRATE GENUINE USG CONCERN FOR YARG'S SECURITY. I WOULD, THEREFORE, AGAIN STRESS NEED FOR QUICK EVALUATION OF SHORT-TERM THREAT AND FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE ON LONG-TERM RE-EQUIPPING QUESTION. ADDITIONALLY I WOULD URGE THAT ALL POSSIBLE BE DONE TO EXPEDITE SALES CASES UAA AND UAB, POSSIBLY BY ASSIGNING HIGHER PRIORITY, AND THAT SHIPMENT BE MADE DIRECTLY TO YEMENI PORT OF HODEIDA AS EARLIER RECOMMENDED.
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